

**SYNONYMY OF CTENOTUS MONTICOLA STORR, 1981 AND CTENOTUS HYPATIA INGRAM AND CZECHURA, 1990.** *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 42(1): 12, 1997:—*Ctenotus monticola* and *C. hypatia* are medium-sized. Both are classed 'poorly known' (McDonald et al, 1991). The former has a 'a very restricted distribution ... with a maximum geographic distribution of less than 100km'. The latter is '... known only from the type collection'. *C. monticola* was described from a series of specimens collected '11km W of Mareeba, Queensland (17°02'S, 145°20'E)'. The type locality of *C. hypatia* is 'granite gorge, 15km W of Mareeba, (17°00'S, 145°17'E)'. These localities are both on Granite Ck, approximately 6km apart (J. Covacevich pers. comm.). That, and the fact that the type descriptions of *C. monticola* and *C. hypatia* are very similar, prompted a re-examination of the type material of each to determine whether or not they are distinct.

Re-examination of the type specimens and type descriptions indicates that *C. monticola* and *C. hypatia* are conspecific (Table 1). Almost without exception, the measurements and scale characters of *C. hypatia* fall well within the range of values provided by Storr (1981) for *C. monticola*. The differences in elongation, indicated by the chin-vent and paravertebral counts are inconsequential. Greater variation is frequently recorded in a single species (e.g. *C. astiens* Horner, 1995 & *C. stuarti* Horner 1995). Additionally, both type specimens share the following characters: nasals separated; nasal groove absent, rostral and frontonasal in narrow to moderate contact; second loreal 1.2 times as wide as high; prefrontals large and separated. Frontal long and narrow contacting the prefrontals, the frontonasal, the first 3 supraoculars, and the frontoparietals; 4 supraoculars, 2nd the largest; 1st supraciliary the largest, 4th to penultimate considerably smaller than others; 5th supralabial subocular, ear aperture large; toes compressed.

Colour and pattern are known to be useful in distinguishing some species of *Ctenotus* (e.g., *C. arcatus* Czechura & Wombey, 1982 and *C. robustus* Storr, 1970). However, this is not the case with *C. monticola* and *C. hypatia*. Colour and pattern of the type specimens of *C. monticola* (5) and *C. hypatia* (1) have been detailed by Storr (1981) and Ingram & Czechura (1990). Variation in the former fully covers the latter.

Thus, in every respect (meristics, scalation, colour/pattern) there are no significant differences between *C. monticola* and *C. hypatia*. *Ctenotus monticola* Storr, 1981 is, therefore, a senior synonym of *C. hypatia* Ingram & Czechura, 1990.

#### Acknowledgements

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TABLE 1. Comparison of holotypes of *C. monticola* (QMJ39468) and *C. hypatia* (QMJ42092). Values in parentheses are from the type descriptions.

Character	Species	
	<i>C. monticola</i> (QMJ39468)	<i>C. hypatia</i> (QMJ42092)
Snout-vent (mm)	53 (51-61)	55 (54)
Foreleg (%SVL)	25 (22-25)	25 (NA)
Hindleg (%SVL)	44 (39-45)	44 (44)
Tail (%SVL)	NA (211-220)	215 (215)
Head width (%SVL)	13 (NA)	12 (12)
Head length (%SVL)	20 (NA)	19 (NA)
Supraciliaries	8 (7 or 8)	8 (9)
Upper ciliaries	9/11 (9-11)	8/9 (NA)
Presuboculars	2 (2, rarely 3)	2 (NA)
Upper labials	7 (7)	7 (7)
Ear lobules	2 or 3 (3-5)	3 or 4 (3-4)
Largest ear lobule	1 (1 usually largest)	1 or 2 (NA)
Enlarged pairs of nuchal scales	4-5 (3-5)	4-5 (4-5)
Midbody scale rows	26 (24-28)	28 (28)
No. of scales from chin-vent	76 (NA)	82 (75)
Paravertebral scale rows	67 (NA)	72 (NA)
Subdigital lamellae	18/19 (17-19)	18/19 (20)
Structure of subdigital lamellae	moderately wide callus (narrow to moderately wide callus)	narrow callus (keeled)

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